



## SAND-TABLE (Sand- tablet)

Context: The use of a sand-table in elementary school

Key-words: basic skills for writing, differentiation, fine motor skills, open learning model, motivating material

Description: In Austria we use different materials in level 1 and 2 for the elementary basic skills of writing. One of these materials is the sand-table or sand-tablet.

How to work with a sand table:



It's really easy to make a sand-table on your own. You just need a tablet and fine sand. For some pupils it is necessary to put a coloured paper below the sand. So there is more contrast between the sand and the subsoil of the tablet.



The first task is to become acquainted with the sand. How does it feel? Plunch in your whole hand, after that just one finger. Start writing some pattern. Then experiment with forms and figures.

Use both hands, left and right!

The extension of this skill is to copy a model, by writing a given pattern in the sand.



The next step is writing letters. First you have to show the pupils the right way of writing the letters. Then they have to practice it on their own.



Of course you can use the sand-table and start writing numbers!



Variation: use of different utensils: fork, pencil, comb, small figures etc

Benefits of working with the sand-table:

- ✗ Pupils like to work with sand. It's like a game
- ✗ It's attractive to work with it
- ✗ It's a motivating material
- ✗ Pupils can immediately withdraw their mistakes, so there cannot be any
- ✗ You can make a lot of repetitions
- ✗ There are a lot of capabilities
- ✗ Tactile experience
- ✗ Even if they cannot hold pencils pupils can already practice writing